

## ABSTRACT

A method is disclosed for controlling the quality of cigarettes produced in a manufacturing process by periodically extracting a sample of filter sections from a plurality of filter sections to be used to manufacture such cigarettes, testing the sampled filter sections to determine the value of certain specified quality parameters; by periodically extracting a sample of completed cigarettes from a plurality of finished cigarettes, testing the selected cigarettes to determine the value of certain specified quality parameters which are related to the quality parameters of the filter segments which have been measured, and; by adjusting the operational controls of the cigarette making machinery in the manufacturing process according to a pre-established algorithm to correct for any undesirable variance between the measured values of the quality parameters computed from the filter segments sampled and the measured values of the related quality parameters computed from the completed cigarettes sampled and by repeating this process to ensure the quality of cigarettes being manufactured.